

BOROUGH OF LUDLOW

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1961





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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health

Elizabeth Capper, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector

H. V. James, M.A.P.H.I., M.I. Mun. E.

Public Health Laboratory Service

Dr. C.A. Jones,

Public Health Laboratory,

Royal Salop Infirmary,

Shrewsbury.

Telephone: Shrewsbury 4389.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health 1961

Ludlow.

October, 1962.

: The Mayor, Alderman & Councillors of Ludlow Corporation.

. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of the Borough and the work of the Public Health Department in 1961.

The Vital Statistics are very satisfactory, except for the alarmingly high Legitimate Birth Rate, and for the increase in the number of deaths from lung cancer. These deaths are a sad reminder of the inter-relationship between smoking and other forms of atmospheric pollution, and diseases of the chest.

Only slow progress was made with the Slum Clearance Programme, but it has to be related to the Council's building programme so that families can be rehoused within a reasonable period after the Orders are made.

The number of Improvement Grants made has risen again and compares very favourably with other Shropshire Authorities. Unfortunately land-lords are not availing themselves of these grants to improve rented houses, many of which are very sub-standard and will soon fall into the Slum Clearance category if nothing is done to them.

Both private and Council house building has continued and this results in more overloading at our already over-worked Sewage Disposal plant. It is essential that rapid progress is made in the construction of the new works.

Meat inspection has again been 100% in spite of the great increase in the number of animals killed. If this increase continues it will make 1 - 2 hours work daily for our Public Health Inspector ~~and~~ who is only part time, the remainder of his time being occupied with his duties as Borough Surveyor.

The large number of cases of tuberculosis is disappointing this year, but apart from these and the cases of measles there were very few Infectious Diseases notified.

I should like to thank all my colleagues for their help during the year and to thank Mr. James for his help in preparing this report.

Elizabeth Capper,

Medical Officer of health.

BOROUGH OF LUDLOW
VITAL STATISTICS 1961

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number	52	58	110
Rate per 1,000 population <u>16.05</u>			
Legitimate live births	49	52	101
Illegitimate live births	3	6	9
per cent of total			
live births <u>8.2</u>			

Still Births

Number	1	2	3
Illegitimate still births	0	0	0
Rate per 1,000 total			
live and still births <u>26.55</u>			

<u>Total Live and Still Births.</u>			113
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<u>Infant Deaths</u> (deaths under one year)	2	0	2
Illegitimate death	0	0	0

Infant Mortality Rates.

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	<u>18.18</u>
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Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	<u>19.8</u>
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Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	<u>0</u>
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<u>Neo-natal Mortality Rate.</u> (deaths under four weeks per 1,000 total live births)	<u>18.18</u>
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<u>Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate.</u> (deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births.)	<u> </u>
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<u>Perinatal Mortality Rate.</u> ((stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	<u>44.2</u>
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Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

Number of deaths.	0
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	0

General Statistics and Notes on Vital Statistics.

Area (in acres)	1,068.
Registrar General's Estimate of population	6,690.
Number of inhabited houses	2,256.
Rateable value of the Borough	£ 72,685.
Estimated product of Id. rate	£ 285.

The population shows an increase of 50 this year. Last year the increase was 30, and it was only 20 in 1959 & 1958.

Births.

The total number of live births was 110 (male 52 and female 58) and of these, 9 were illegitimate. Thus the percentage of illegitimate births was 8.2. This compares very unfavourably with the figures of 2.56 for last year and is nearly double the figure for 1959, which was considered very high.

Still Births.

There were 3 still births (1 male and 2 female) giving a Still Birth Rate of 26.55, which is just a little above the national figure.

Infant Mortality.

There were two infant deaths, both occurring within the first week. One was due to congenital deformities and the other to prematurity and asphyxia.

The Infant Mortality Rate of 18.18 is very slightly above that for 1960 and compares favourably with the rate for England & Wales.

Deaths.

There were 105 deaths (male 51 and female 54). The Crude Death Rate was 15.7. and the Standardised Death Rate was 10.05, comparing favourably with the figure of 12.0 for England and Wales.

Diseases of the heart and circulation caused 58.2% of all deaths and malignant disease caused 15.2% of the deaths. This year there were 4 deaths from lung cancer. Respiratory diseases caused 10.5% of the deaths and this figure remains very constant each year.

It is sad to record 4 deaths in the under 20 age group. Two of these were infants but the other two were school children. One child was drowned when away on holiday and the other died from a bathing accident.

More than half the deaths occurred in people over the age of 75 years and 5 occurred in people over the age of 90 years.

Death from all causes.	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
	51	54	105.
Death Rate per 1,000 population	<u>15.7</u>		
Standardised Death Rate	<u>10.05</u>		
Comparability factors	Births.	1.00	Deaths 0.64.

Cause of Death.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Diseases of heart and circulation	20	28	48
Vascular lesions of central nervous system	6	7	13
Malignant disease (excluding lung)	5	7	12
Malignant disease of lung	3	1	4
Leukaemia	-	1	1
Influenza	1	1	2
Pneumonia	5	3	8
Diabetes	1	-	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	1	1
Pregnancy and abortion		-	-
Congenital malformation	2	-	2
Motor accidents	-	-	-
Other accidents	1	-	1
Suicide	-	-	-
Other	6	5	11
	<u>51</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>105.</u>

Statistics for England and Wales.

Birth Rate	17.4
Death Rate	12.0
Still Birth Rate	19.1
Infant Mortality Rate	21.6
Perinatal Mortality Rate	32.2
Illegitimate Birth Rate	59.0.

(Average of 50 per 1,000
for the preceeding 5 years).

General Provisions of Health Service.Staff.

This has remained unchanged in spite of the ever-increasing amount of work. The Public Health Inspector cannot devote adequate time to routine inspection of the district in connection with nuisances, food hygiene or housing, nor has he time to follow up defects which he does find or have reported to him.

Laboratory Services.

Thanks to the help and co-operation of Dr. Jones at the Laboratory, frequent samples of our raw and our treated water are taken. Dr. Jones is always willing to give advice on any of our problems.

Ambulance Service.

The 7 ambulances stationed at the Ludlow Depot have continued to give excellent service. In case of accident an ambulance should be obtained immediately by making a 999 emergency telephone call. A regulation which came into force this year requires saw mills and chemical works to display a notice giving clear directions for calling an ambulance in case of accident.

The local Ambulance Sub Committee met on January 27th for the last time, it being resolved at that meeting to discontinue the Sub-Committee. Any urgent matters, or complaints should be referred immediately either to the County Medical Officer of Health or to Dr. Capper in Ludlow.

Concern has been felt in the town since it was learned that the County Council was considering moving the Depot from Ludlow and it is hoped that we shall be able to keep it here.

Home Nursing

Our two District-Nurse Midwives and one Home Nurse have continued to serve the town well. Miss Lydiate, the relief nurse has left temporarily to take a further course of study

Home Help Service.

The number of home helps was sufficient to meet all needs this year again. They work on a part or full time basis, and are greatly appreciated, perhaps especially by the Old People to whom they are both a help and a friendly visitor.

Meals on Wheels.

From June this year the Womens Voluntary Services have managed to take the Old People a hot meal twice a week and a total of 2,623 meals have been supplied. Not only is this of great nutritional value, but it is of the greatest value in promoting good human relationship. The regular contact with a visitor who is regarded as a friend frequently results in the Old People getting help in a surprising number of ways. For often they do not like to bother "Officials" with problems which they fear may be regarded as of little importance. This voluntary regular visiting is of the greatest value.

Child Welfare Centres.

The Infant Welfare & School Clinics are held at Dinham on Mondays 1.30 - 4.30p.m. and New Street on Thursday 1.30-4.30p.m. Other Clinics held at Dinham are for Dental Treatment, Speech Therapy, Chest Diseases, Audiology, Ante-natal Care, Child Guidance and Immunisation Sessions, but attendance at these is by appointment.

An additional session was started in May to provide Mothercraft and Relaxation Classes, chiefly for help and advice during first pregnancies. These classes are held on the 2nd and 4th Fridays in the month at 2.30p.m.

Chiropody Service.

Since April 1st the County Council has provided a Chiropody Service for the aged, expectant mothers and the handicapped persons. A certificate of need must be signed by a Doctor, Health visitor or District nurse, or in some cases by an Officer of the County Welfare Department. Patients are expected to pay 2/6d. but treatment may be provided free in cases of financial hardship.

Veneral Diseases Clinics.

Belmont, Shrewsbury.

Males:	Tuesday and Fridays.	6 - 8 p.m.
Females:	Mondays	3-30 - 5-30p.m.
	Thursdays.	5 - 7 p.m.

Family Planning.

The Family Planning Association have centres at Kidderminster, Shrewsbury and Hereford, where advice is given on Family Planning and sub-fertility and other disorders.

SECTION 'C'Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supplies: The natural supplies were generally adequate except, as in previous years, during periods of drought in the summer months, bulk purchases had to be made from the Birmingham Corporation amounting during the year to 23 million gallons.

No new mains were laid during the year.

In October, the mains serving Fishmore Road and New Road, were connected to the system controlled by the new Water Tower, thus affording increased pressure to the premises in those areas.

All water is Chlorinated and of 93 samples analysed, 85 were found to be satisfactory. Analyses of repeat samples of the other 8 were then found to be satisfactory.

Chemical analyses of each supply resulted as follows :-

CERTIFICATES OF ANALYSES.

Date : 21st. October, 1961

Results expressed in parts per 1,000,000

	<u>Fountain.</u>	<u>Burway.</u>
Appearance	Bright, few small particles.	
Ammoniacal Nitrogen.	0.003.	0.003.
Albuminoid Nitrogen.	0.013.	0.013.
Chlorine in Chlorides.	13.5.	22.5.
Nitrate Nitrogen.	0.4.	2.7.
Oxygen absorbed from) permanganate at 27°C in 4 hours.)	0.1.	0.1.
Total Solids dried in 100 C.	220	370
Nitrite Nitrogen.	Absent.	Absent.
pH.	7.01.	6.95.
Free Chlorine.	Absent	-
(Temporary	132	187
Hardness (Permanent	68.	93.
(Total	200.	280.
Radioactivity	-	-
Iron.		Absent.

The above results show that these waters are chemically of very good quality and, subject to satisfactory bacteriological examination, suitable for use as a Public Supply,

Signed.

Bostock Hill & Rigby.

Public Analysts

Only 1 house has a private supply and 150 houses are served by stand-pipes.

SWIMMING BATH.

The construction of a new Swimming Bath commenced in 1960, had reached such a stage that in May, the bath was opened as an Open Air Pool, and continued in use until the end of September, when the outstanding works, including the provision of roof timbers and covering, sliding wall partitions and provision of heating equipment, was recommenced.

Town mains water is used and purification is carried out by means of,

- (a) mechanical strainers,
- (b) break-point chlorination,
- (c) Stellar Filters
- &
- (d) alkaline dosage plant.

The bath has a capacity of 84,000 gallons and the water is changed every 4 hours by continuous flow circulating pumps. Six samples of the bath water were analysed and found to be sterile.

Offensive Trade.

There have been numerous complaints about the smell from the Sausage Casing Factory, and in spite of various remedial measures taken, the process is still not nuisance-free.

(2) Factories not included in (1) in which

Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority. 77. 110. 3.

Total. 92. 142. 3.

Cases in which Defects were found:-

Want of Cleanliness.

Found 4.

Remedied 4.

Referred by
H.M. Inspector 1.

Inadequate ventilation.

Found 3.

Remedied 3.

Referred by
H.M. Inspector -

Sanitary Conveniences.

Unsuitable or defective.

Found 4.

Remedied 4.

Referred by
H.M. Inspector 1.

Not separate for Sexes.

Found 1.

Remedied 1.

Referred by
H.M. Inspector 1.

Total. 12. 12. 3.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL. Of the 2256 houses in the Borough 2198 have main drainage, 38 have private disposal plant, the remaining 23 have chemical or pail closets, with satisfactory means of disposal.

The existing works and plant are maintained in a reasonably satisfactory condition, despite increased difficulties at the pumping station. Although work on the New Sewage Disposal works and Pumping Station has not yet started, necessary plans and documents have been prepared and tendering procedure agreed. It is anticipated that the work will commence early in 1962. The Main Sewer was extended in Sheet Road by 70 yards.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL. Weekly collections continue to be made from all domestic premises and more frequently as required from hotels, cafes, snack-bars etc. especially in the holiday season.

A 10/12 cu.yd. Dual Tip Refuse Collection Vehicle has been purchased during the year, to cope with the ever increasing quantity of domestic refuse collected.

Controlled tipping, introduced last year, continues to be carried out, with entirely satisfactory results.

84 $\frac{3}{4}$ tons of Salvaged waste paper was sold during the year.

RODENT CONTROL. Periodical surveys were made of all the Main Sewers, refuse tip, sewage works and other Council properties and necessary treatment carried out. The help and advice of the local Pests Officer regarding modern methods of treatment is greatly appreciated.

Details of premises visited are as follows:-

Private dwellings.	250.	275 visits.
Business premises.	25.	35 "

These visits include those to houses closed or awaiting demolition under the Housing Acts.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES. There are no registered Common lodging houses in the Borough.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACTS 1937 & 1948.

There are 92 factories in the Borough, 77 with mechanical power and 15 without.

Inspections by the Public Health Inspector were as follows:-

No.on	Written
<u>Register.</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>
	<u>Notices</u>

(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3
4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local
Authorities.

15

32

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Cont. on page 10...

SECTION 'D'Housing

Number of inhabited houses	2256.
Number of Houses owned by Council.	542.

Houses completed in 1961

(a) Council Houses.	39.
(b) Private Houses.	34.

Houses under construction as at 31/12/61

(a) Council.	40.
(b) Private.	5.

Improvements Grants applied for:-

22

of these 3 were made under Sec.4 House
Purchase & Housing Act. 1959.

Number of Applicants for Council Houses	423.
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These can be classified as follows:-

Without Homes of their own	96.
Occupying houses in Borough but desiring a change.	85.
Occupying sub-standard houses in the Borough.	74.
Living outside the Borough.	168.

New Houses. 33 of the 35 houses comprising stage 2 of the Sheet Road development were completed and occupied during the year, also 4 of the 6 houses at Sandpits Close.

In July building commenced on Stage 3 of this Scheme, comprising 103 units of 1, 2, 3 & 4 bedroom dwellings.

Caravan Sites. The two licensed sites have been visited frequently when conditions were found generally satisfactory and in accordance with the conditions of the Licences.

Planning Consents have been issued in respect of these 2 sites and Schedules of Conditions under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, were issued in September. The Schedules provide, inter alia, that any necessary works shall be completed within 12 calendar months.

Slum Clearance.

No. of unfit houses closed under Sec. 17 (1)

of Housing Act, 1957.

2

No. of Unfit houses closed under Sec. 17(3) of Housing Act 1957.

1

Houses made fit under Sec. 16 Housing Act, 1957.

3

Houses still in progress of being made fit. ...

Nil.

SECTION 'E'

Inspection and Supervision of Food Supply.

at. The 3 licenced slaughterhouses were in continual use throughout the year and satisfactory conditions were maintained. The existing arrangements for the collection of hides etc., the removal of waste matters and the disposal of unfit meat, are entirely adequate.

Particulars of the meat inspections are as follows:-

CARCASES & OFFAL INSPECTED & CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR PART.

	Cattle excluding cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs
Number killed.	485	-	-	2626	1222
Number Inspected.	485	-	-	2626	1222
diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	-	-	2	-
Carcasses of which some parts or organs were condemned	57	-	-	35	27
Percentage of the number inspected with diseases other than T.B. or Cysticerci.	11.96	-	-	1.41	2.21
Tuberculosis only:-					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some parts or organs were condemned	-	-	-	-	13
Percentage of number inspected affected with T.B.	-	-	-	-	1.06
Cysticercosis:					
Number of carcasses infected and condemned	-	-	-	-	-

MILK. The six retailers all sell Pasteurized milk, including Tuberculin-tested milk in five instances.

10 visits were made to the Pasteurization Plant operating in the Borough and 12 visits to the two dairies. Satisfactory conditions were found to exist on each occasion.

ICE-CREAM. There are 42 retailers of ice-cream all of proprietary brands and all but three, only sell pre-wrapped ice-cream. Five samples were taken and found to be grade 1.

FOOD PREMISES. The number and types of food premises are as follows:-

Butchers.	11	Fried Fish Shops	2
Bakehouses.	15.	Restaurants, Cafes	
Food Shops	75.	and snackbars.	17

Premises registered under Sect. 14 Food & Drugs Act 1938 and included in the above figures are 45.

Frequent visits were paid during the year to all premises where open food was on sale and advice given as required, to ensure compliance with the Food Regulations.

Unsound food. The following foodstuffs were condemned:-

Tinned Meat.	40 lbs.	Milk.	16 tins.
Sausages.	48 "	Vegetables.	22 tins.
Fruit.	75 tins	Kippers.	1 Stone.
Marmalade.	6 lbs.	Fish.	3 lbs .
Tomatoes.	21 tins.	Rice Puddings.	3 tins .
Spaghetti.	3 tins.	Quosh.	2 bottles.
	Mallow Creams.	61½ lbs.	

SECTION F

Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases.

The following cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during the year.

	1st quarter	2nd quarter	3rd quarter	4th quarter	TOTAL
Measles	1	24	81	-	106
Whooping Cough	6	2	-	-	8
Acute Pneumonia	1	1	-	1	3
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis					
Respiratory	1	1	2	2	6
Meninges & C.N.S.	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	1	-	-	-	1
Food Poisoning	3	-	-	-	3
Anthrax	-	-	-	-	-

The small outbreak of whooping cough which began in November 1960, subsided in the early part of the year, but then in its place came an epidemic of measles. 1961 was a "measles year" throughout England and Wales.

It proved impossible to trace the source of the dysentery infection.

The three cases of food poisoning constituted one family outbreak, but the cause was not found, as, owing to a clerical error, there was a delay in the notification being received.

The cases of pulmonary tuberculosis occurred in men aged 30, 40, 47 & 77 years and in women aged 40 & 50 years. This is the highest number of notifications since 1956.

Number of cases on Tuberculosis Register, December 1961

Pulmonary	58
Non Pulmonary	11
Removed from register - Cured -	3
Transferred into Borough	0

Transferred out	1
Died	0

Prophylaxis.

The County Medical Officer of Health has very kindly supplied the following tables showing the number of vaccinations & immunisations given during the year.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Primary Immunisation.

<u>Under 1 year.</u>	<u>1 - 4 years.</u>	<u>5 - 14 years.</u>
42	64	16

Booster doses.

-	4	108
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Whooping Cough Immunisation

Primary.

<u>Under 1 year.</u>	<u>1 - 4 years.</u>	<u>5 - 14 years.</u>
52	46	3

Tetanus Immunisation.

<u>Under 1 year.</u>	<u>1 - 4 years.</u>	<u>5 - 14 years.</u>
38	38	7

Poliomyelitis Vaccination.Primary (1st. and 2nd injections.)

Children born <u>1961 - 43.</u>	Persons born <u>1942 - 33</u>	<u>Under 40's</u>	<u>Others</u>
174	52	126	13

Third injections.

132	42	170	8
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Fourth injections.

Children born 1957 - 49 only.
547.

B.C.G. Vaccination.

Number of children accepting B.C.G. vaccination	211
Number of children refusing B.C.G. vaccination	11
Number skin tested	197
Number found to be positive	25
Number found to be negative	166
Number given B.C.G.	164
Number still found negative after vaccination	Nil

Small pox vaccination.

Primary.

<u>Under 1 year.</u>	<u>1 year.</u>	<u>2 - 4 years.</u>	<u>5 - 14 years</u>	<u>Over 14 years</u>
53	26	4	2	2
<u>Re-vaccination.</u>				6

There is a slow but steady increase in the number of children receiving these injections. The figures for the past year or two are a little affected by changes in the timing and the composition of the injections following reports of researches into this complex problem to ensure optimum safety and optimum protection.

Public Health Act. 1961

This Act makes it obligatory for a Local Authority to compensate a person who has suffered ^{financial} loss when required by the Medical Officer of Health under Section 41 (1) so to do.

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